MARVEL

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ANNUAL

PERCY
KIM
CAMPBELL

GHOST-RIDER

VS. THE HOOD'S INFERNAL HALLOWEEN!

2023
iacono

When innocent blood is spilled, a ***Spirit of Vengeance*** is born,
and **JOHNNY BLAZE** finds himself transformed!

Marvel Comics presents...

GHOST RIDER

"Halloween Spirit"

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PREVIOUSLY...

Johnny Blaze was a talented stunt cyclist until a deal with the demon Mephisto bonded the Spirit of Vengeance to his soul. Now Johnny seeks to use his curse for good, keeping the darkness of Hell from venturing into the light.

Johnny is joined by occultist and former F.B.I. agent Talia Warroad. The pair have become a force to be reckoned with in the supernatural underbelly of the country. But mortal minds can hatch schemes as fiendish as the darkest powers of Hell...

AN HOUR AGO.

THERE'S A REASON YOUR SENSES ARE HEIGHTENED ON *HALLOWEEN*...

...WHEN YOU CAN SMELL THE SPICE OF BURNING LEAVES...

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

...AND THE AIR FEELS BRITTLE...

...AND EVERYTHING'S VIVIDLY COLORED.

THERE'S AN ENERGY YOU'RE TAPPED INTO.

A DARK ENERGY.

THE SPIRIT OF *SAMHAIN*.

OPEN

CLOSED

AND NOWHERE IS IT MORE POWERFUL THAN SALEM.

CAN I HELP YOU FIND SOMETHING?

MATTER OF FACT, JACOB, YOU CAN.

I CALLED, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. WANTING TO BUY ONE #$%&@ TITLE FROM YOUR #$%&@ COLLECTION.

KRAK

YOU REFUSED TO SELL IT. SO I'M GOING TO TAKE IT.

NO...

NO, MR. ROBBINS, I WON'T GIVE IT TO YOU.

YOU DON'T SAY NO TO THE HOOD.

IT'S NOT HERE. IT'S--

BLAM

AAAIIIEE!

NEXT ONE BLINDS ONE OF THOSE FREAK-SHOW EYES. BURIES ITSELF IN YOUR BRAIN.

NOW GET THE HELL UP.

THE ILLUSION CAST ON THAT BOOKSHELF? I CAN SEE IT.

GOING TO ASSUME IT LEADS TO YOUR PRIVATE LIBRARY.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND-- THE REASON IT'S NOT FOR SALE IS BECAUSE IT'S TOO *DANGEROUS.*

YEAH. I KNOW, YOU STUPID @#5%.

THAT'S WHY I WANT IT.

THERE WE GO. THAT WASN'T SO HARD, SEE?

YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO DIE.

YET.

BUT THERE'S A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US.

WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD HAPPEN, YEAH?

I'VE BEEN GONE-- GONE TO A DARK @#$%#& PLACE FOR A LONG @#$%#& WHILE...

...AND I'M READY TO MAKE UP FOR SOME LOST TIME.

EARN SOME DOLLARS AND BLOOD.

Hallow Gospels

THIS BOOK IS GOING TO BE THE STORY OF MY COMEBACK.

OF ALL THE MONTHS, OCTOBER IS THE HOLIEST OF THEM ALL FOR THE DARKNESS...

...AND HALLOWEEN, SAMHAIN, IS ITS CRESCENDO.

THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN IS AN ENTITY THAT LIVES BENEATH OUR WORLD.

IF YOU WANT TO TAP INTO ITS ENERGY...

...OR OUTRIGHT SUMMON IT...

CLOSED

...ITS SPIRIT IS STRONGEST TONIGHT.

MOTEL
The Dead Tired Inn

EVERY DAY IS HALLOWEEN...

...IF YOU'RE LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE.

GOING TO LEAVE CANDY FOR THE KIDS?

ONLY THE ONES WITH ARSENIC AND RAZOR BLADES IN THEM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LITTLE TOO ON THE NOSE?

TALIA?

TALIA!

CHHHHHHH

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HKK!!!

SOMETHING'S... WRONG.

REALLY, REALLY WRONG.

THE RIDER FEELS IT TOO...

...THERE'S EVIL IN THE AIR.

NOK NOK

NOK NOK

NO...

NOK NOK

KRSH

WHEN I KNOCK, YOU ANSWER.

YOU--

NO!

STOP. PLEASE.

WHO THE @#$% IS THIS?

HER NAME'S *ELSA BLOODSTONE*, COMES FROM A LONG LINE OF MONSTER HUNTERS.

I JUST FELT A MAGICAL DISTURBANCE THAT KNOCKED ME FLAT. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE EQUIVALENT OF A TEN ON THE RICHTER SCALE.

IF THIS #$&% IS TO BLAME--

I'M NOT TO BLAME, AND WE NEED TO HURRY.

OR THIS WILL BE THE *LAST* HALLOWEEN.

THIS IS SOME SERIOUS @#$%, ELSA. YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T CALL IN DOCTOR STRANGE?

HE'S UNAVAILABLE. YOU DIDN'T THINK TWO UNWASHED DRIFTERS WERE THE *FIRST* ONES ON MY LIST, DID YOU?

THANKS FOR THINKING OF US. AND @#$% YOU WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

THERE'S BEEN A SPIKE IN SUPERNATURAL ACTIVITY THE PAST FEW YEARS.

YOUR STANDARDS ARE A BIT RAW AND DIRTY. BUT YOU'VE DONE ALL RIGHT FIGHTING IT. THAT'S HOW YOU ENDED UP ON MY RADAR.

THAT'S ALSO HOW I CAME TO LEARN ABOUT THE *HALLOW GOSPELS.*

WHOEVER CONTROLS THE BOOK CONTROLS THE POWER THAT POURS OUT OF IT.

YOU CAN THINK OF IT LIKE A BATTERY, OR YOU CAN THINK OF IT LIKE A GATE, BUT...IT'S NOW FOUND ITS NEXUS IN SALEM.

THAT'S NOT GOING TO STAY CONTAINED, IS IT?

NO...IT'S INCUBATING.

HOW LONG UNTIL THE DAM BREAKS AND THIS #$%& GOES POURING OUT INTO THE WORLD?

BEFORE THIS NIGHT ENDS.

SHOULD SHE BE DOING THAT?

YES. SHE SHOULD.

URK!

@#$%, THAT HURTS!

SLIKK

STAY BACK.

THE @#$% ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SHE NEEDS OUR HELP!

ANYBODY WHO STEPS INSIDE THIS PERIMETER WILL BE INFECTED BY THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT.

YOU'RE ALREADY SCARY ENOUGH ON THE INSIDE. YOU DON'T NEED ANY ADDITIONAL... FLAVORING.

TERGEO.

BESIDES...

...SHE DOESN'T *NEED* ANYONE'S HELP.

YOU SEE?

SHE'S PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HERSELF.

YOU SAYING THAT WITH A SMILE, @#$%?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THE DECISION TO TEST THE PERIMETER.

YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY DISCOURAGE IT.

SOMEBODY HAD TO DO IT.

SO I'M THE CHUM YOU THROW TO THE SHARKS?

NO. YOU'RE THE CAGE THAT PROTECTS US FROM THEIR JAWS.

WHATEVER SPELL YOU CLEANSED YOURSELF WITH...

...DOSE US UP.

GIVE US A *SHIELD* TO SURVIVE THIS.

JOHNNY? GIVE ME AN UPDATE ON THE RIDER?

HE'S WITH ME, BUT HE'S HOLDING BACK.

FEELS LIKE HE'S FLARING JUST BENEATH MY SKIN, IF THAT MAKES SENSE.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

THEM.

THEY'RE THE PROBLEM.

THEY'RE MONSTERS.

BUT THEY'RE *PEOPLE.*

KROOM

WE CAN'T KILL THEM.

BUT WE CAN HURT THE DEVIL *OUT* OF THEM.

IT'S LIKE THE RIDER'S GIVING ME JUST ENOUGH OF HIM...

WHERE DID THAT CHAIN COME FROM?

...TO GET TO THE *REAL* ENEMY.

SZZL

CHOOOOM

THEY'LL LIVE.

IF EVERYBODY'S WEARING A COSTUME ON HALLOWEEN, THEN HOW DO WE FIND THE REAL--

--MONSTERS?!

KRAK

NO!

DOOM DOOM

REEEE!

#5%@.

TALIA!

-HUFF-

THIS THING'S LOADED WITH BUCKSHOT...

...BUT I'M GONNA LACE IT WITH *HELLFIRE.*

FWOOSH

THOOOM

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KILL THEM.

HE WAS NO INNOCENT.

LET ME SEARCH YOUR SOUL.

SHARE YOUR SINS.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

JOHNNY?

HE CAME BACK.

WHO CAME BACK?

HE WAS IN A DARK PLACE, BUT HE CAME BACK STRONGER.

PARKER ROBBINS.

THE HOOD.

IT IS CLEAR NOW THAT THIS IS BEYOND JOHNNY'S ABILITIES OR YOURS.

HALLOWEEN IS A NIGHT FOR MONSTERS.

HRRN...

GOOD...

...YOU'RE AWAKE.

NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.

SKINCH

YOU SEE...

SKELCH

AIIEEEE!

...THE END OF THE *HALLOW GOSPELS*--÷MUNCH÷--IS A BUNCH OF BLANK PAGES.

I'M SUPPOSED TO SPIKE THE FEAR AND TASTE THE FLESH OF MY SACRIFICE.

I DON'T KNOW $#&@ ABOUT $#&@ WHEN IT COMES TO THESE FANCY-ASS SPELLS...

...BUT I DO LOVE BRINGING THE PAIN.

YOU WANT THE POWER?

YOU'VE GOT TO AUTHOR THE FUTURE...

...IN BLOOD, BABY.

MUST FEEL GOOD, JACOB, YEAH?

TO KNOW THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS AS A @#%& BOOKWORM...

...YOU'RE FINALLY PART OF THE STORY!

SACRIFICE

CHK

FWOOSH

VROOOOM

SAVE TALIA WARROAD.

ME?

THEN WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO--?

SCREEE

A SUMMONING SPELL HAS BEGUN.

THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT IS BEGINNING TO MANIFEST.

WHILE YOU DEAL WITH THE FLESH-AND-BLOOD MORTALS...

...I'LL BE BUSY GETTING INTO *THE SPIRIT.*

526

CLOSED

BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

KRINCH

ANYBODY HERE?

CLOSED

I'M LOOKING FOR THE HORROR SECTION.

THUNK

HASSSS

@#$%!!!

SKOOM

SOMEONE'S HERE.

TAKE CARE OF HER...

...WHILE I FINISH WHAT I STARTED.

THE @#$&% WHO BANISHED ME ALL THIS TIME?*

THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET THEIR ASSES PUNISHED.

*SEE MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND #1! --DS

EVERY DAY'S GONNA BE HALLOWEEN.

YOU'VE MADE SOME *NEW* ENEMIES NOW, YOU @#$%@.

GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM.

THE RIDER MUST FEEL LIKE SOMEONE TRYING TO PLUG AN OIL GEYSER...

...WITH THEIR BARE HANDS.

THIS SPIRIT IS BUILT OUT OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF FEAR AND DARKNESS...

...THAT HAVE BEEN FESTERING, READY TO EXPLODE INTO THE WORLD.

WITHOUT THE RIDER HOLDING ON AND WRESTLING IT BACK, IT WOULD HAVE ALREADY TAKEN OUT HALF THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

ELSA AND TALIA NEED TO CUT OFF ITS SOURCE OF POWER...

...BEFORE THE RIDER LOSES HIS GRIP.

BLAM

CHOOOM

TALIA--?!

THE BOOK.

CLOSE IT!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

BLAM

GOTCHA.

IT'S STRONGER THAN THE RIDER.

JUST WHEN I THINK WE'RE FINISHED...

...THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT GOES TO SMOKE...

...LIKE SOMEBODY'S SNUFFED OUT THE CANDLE IN A PUMPKIN.

LATER...

EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL. NORMAL AS THINGS GET IN A TOWN LIKE SALEM ANYWAY.

BUT I IMAGINE EVERYBODY'S SUFFERING FROM A HELL OF A HALLOWEEN HANGOVER.

I CAN TELL YOU THIS BOOK WILL NO LONGER BE A THREAT.

I'LL BE LOCKING IT UP IN A SEALED VAULT BELOW MY ESTATE.

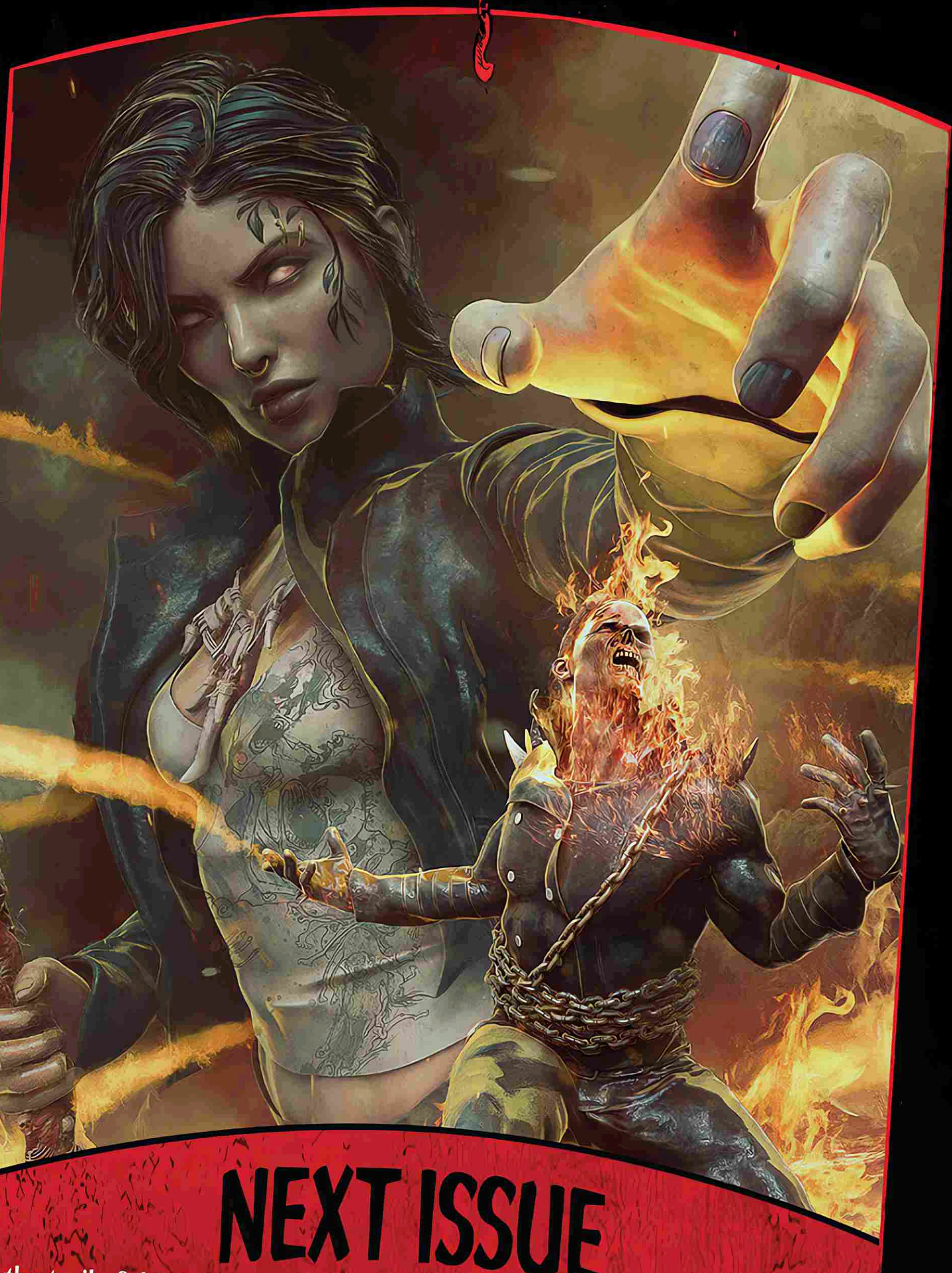
CAN'T SAY THE SAME OF THE HOOD.

DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S BEEN. DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE...

...BUT I FEEL LIKE I KEEP SEEING HIM OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE...

...LIKE AN UGLY SHADOW THAT'S FOLLOWING US.

THE END?



NEXT ISSUE

On the trail of the Cult of Mephisto, Talia Warroad and Johnny Blaze discover a town emptied of adults. What happened, what will become of the children left behind, and how does it connect to Talia's own childhood? He may not be the nurturing type, but these children's only hope is the Ghost Rider!

Plus: A backup story featuring Ghost Rider and Kushala, the Spirit Rider!

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